



Public Review and Comment on Proposed Removal Action at Area of Concern 3

The Air Force invites the public to review and comment on a proposal for removing impacted soil from Area of Concern (AOC) 3, a former small arms firing range, at Air Force Plant 42 (AFP 42) in Palmdale, California. The 30-day comment period runs from March 26, 2007 through April 24, 2007 and a public meeting is scheduled for April 4, 2007 (see box on page 2 for details).

This fact sheet outlines the cleanup proposal for removing impacted soil from the firing range berm at AOC 3. The soil removal plan, called the Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW), was prepared by the Air Force and submitted to the state regulatory agency who oversees the cleanup of the plant.

The Draft RAW documents the results of the investigations and soil sampling done at the site, evaluates several cleanup alternatives, and describes the proposed remedy.

The AOC 3 firing range is being addressed as part of a removal action under the Air Force's Installation Restoration Program (IRP), which includes 29 sites and 3 AOCs. AOC 3 is being cleaned up as a removal action under the RAW process. The RAW process is being used at AOC 3 because the extent and type of contaminants at the site are well-defined, involving cleanup activities that are easy to implement.

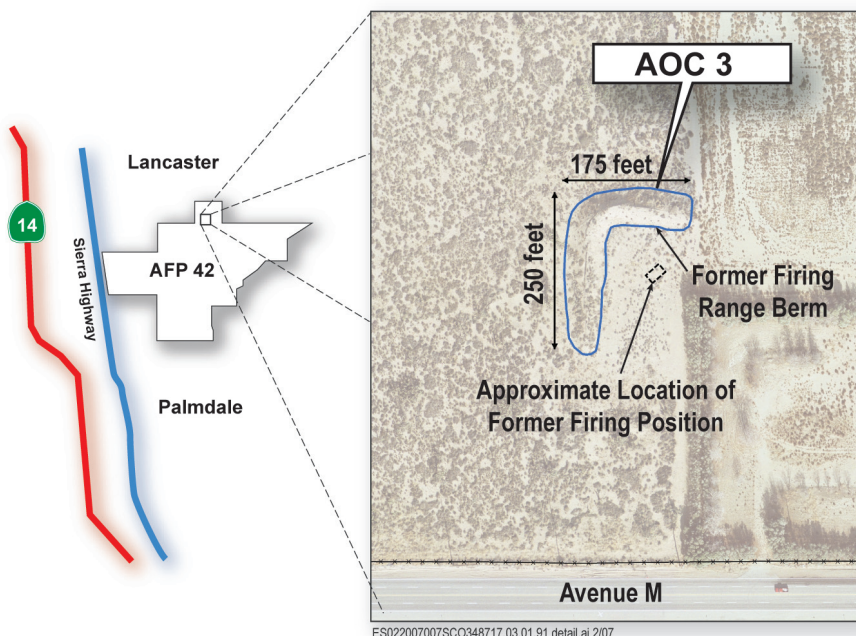
The Aeronautical Systems Center (ASC), located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base (AFB), Ohio, will facilitate the cleanup through its Engineering Directorate Environmental Restoration Branch. The ASC branch is responsible for the management of the IRP, which includes identification, evaluation, investigation, cleanup and monitoring of soil and groundwater contamination that occurred prior to 1984 at Air Force plants. ASC and the Air Force are committed to environmental cleanup of these

hazardous waste sites. In executing this congressionally mandated program, ASC and the Air Force follow applicable federal and state requirements.

Site Description

The AOC 3 former firing range is located north of the main portion of the AFP 42 facility, north of Avenue M (see map below). No activities currently occur at AOC 3.

The AOC 3 firing range backstop is formed by a berm of soil with an L-shaped configuration measuring approximately 250 feet on the long leg and 175 feet on the short leg, that measures an average of 20 feet from the base to the top and appears to be composed of soil that was likely obtained from onsite.



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The firing range was used by AFP 42 personnel for training and practicing the handling and discharge (i.e., firing) of hand-held weapons from 1953 through 1982. The firing range targets were placed along the interior portion of the firing range berm and the weapons were fired from a designated position located approximately 75 feet south of the northern berm.

Portions of the soil at the firing range berm contain elevated concentrations of lead and thallium as a result of past target practice activities involving the discharge of hand-held guns into the berm soil. The soil at the site needs to be cleaned up to protect onsite workers under the current and foreseeable use of the plant, and potential future onsite residents in the event that the land use is changed in the future. Note that the Air Force currently has no plans to change the land use to residential.

Cleanup Method

The Air Force investigated AOC 3 to determine the nature and extent of contamination. After consideration of several cleanup alternatives, the Air Force decided that the preferred cleanup method is excavation of impacted soil from the firing range berm, onsite soil sifting to remove bullets and bullet fragments, and appropriate offsite disposal. Recovered bullets and bullet fragments will be transported offsite for recycling, and sifted soil

will be transported to a landfill(s) that is permitted to accept this type of waste. An estimated total of 20 truckloads of impacted materials will be transported offsite. The number of daily truckloads will be limited to minimize traffic impacts. Airborne dust will be controlled by applying water during excavation and soil sifting activities, and covering piles of excavated materials. No noise impacts to the public or AFP 42 workers are expected.

Regulatory Oversight

All IRP activities at AFP 42 are being conducted with oversight by the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal-EPA), Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (RWQCB). DTSC oversees potential risks posed to human health and the environment, and the RWQCB focuses on the protection of state water resources, including surface water and groundwater. Groundwater at AOC 3 is not impacted.

DTSC evaluated whether there would be any environmental impacts resulting from the cleanup actions and determined that the cleanup would not have a significant effect on human health or the environment. DTSC's findings will be documented in appropriate documents prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Public Comments and Meeting:

The public is invited to make oral and written comments on the Draft RAW at a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4, 2007 at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Palmdale. A copy of the document is available for review at the locations listed below. Written comments should be postmarked or e-mailed by April 24, 2007 to AFP 42 Public Affairs Officer, Chuck Muston, ASC/ENVR, Bldg 8, 1801 10th Street, Suite 2, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio 45433-7626; fax 937-255-4155, or via e-mail to charles.muston@wpafb.af.mil.

Response to Public Comments

All comments will be considered before a final decision is made. The Air Force will address public comments in a formal Responsiveness Summary that will be included as part of the Final RAW, which will be available in the Information Repositories.

Contact Information

If you would like to talk with someone about IRP activities at AFP 42, please contact:

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(714) 484-5419

Where Can I Get More Information?

The Draft RAW for AOC 3, along with other published data, studies and documents relating to the AFP 42 IRP, are available for public review at the Information Repositories located at:

Lancaster Public Library

610 W. Lancaster Boulevard
Lancaster, CA 93534
(661) 948-5029
Contact: Ted Miles

Palmdale Public Library

700 E. Palmdale Boulevard
Palmdale, CA 93550
(661) 267-5600
Contact: Diane Hanville

Department of Toxic Substances Control

5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Call (714) 484-5337 to schedule an appointment



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